

Switzler Creek Watershed Dam No. 7 Rehabilitation Project Osage County, Kansas

Fact Sheet
January 2014

History of the Dam:

Switzler Creek Watershed Dam No. 7 provides flood protection for residents living along Switzler Creek and in the eastern part of Burlingame, Kansas.

The dam was constructed in 1960 by local watershed project sponsors with the assistance of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Pilot Watershed Program.

Major floods occurred in the watershed in 1935, 1945, and 1951, with minor flooding in other years. Kansas Highway 56 was often closed on the east side of the city of Burlingame due to flood waters. Dam No. 7 has been protecting the residents of Burlingame and the people who travel and live along Switzler Creek for over 50 years.



The auxiliary spillway for the dam was relocated to the left abutment and enlarged.



Rehabilitation of the dam extended the life of the dam for another 100 years.

Partners:

- Switzler Creek Watershed Joint District No. 63
- Osage County Conservation District
- City of Burlingame
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Why Rehabilitate the Dam?

The dam was nearing the end of its 50-year design life and it no longer met current hydrologic criteria for a high hazard class dam. Components of the dam including the principal spillway also showed significant deterioration.

Rehabilitation Details:

Rehabilitation included raising the top of dam elevation, replacement of the principal spillway, and moving the auxiliary spillway to the left abutment. Rehabilitation of the dam provided a 209 acre-foot increase in the floodwater-retarding pool storage. Rehabilitation was completed in December 2011.

Project Cost:

The NRCS provided technical assistance and 65 percent of the construction cost. \$325,615 in federal funds came from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for planning and design of the project. The total cost of the rehabilitation was \$1,014,759 with \$659,594 provided by the NRCS Watershed Rehabilitation Program and the balance provided by the watershed project sponsors.

Benefits:

The dam provides flood protection for about 150 people living along Switzler Creek and in eastern portions of the City of Burlingame as well as Kansas Highway 56.

Rehabilitation extended the life of the dam for 100 years and it will provide an estimated \$84,100 in average annual benefits. The rehabilitation project provides direct benefits to the immediate area and also provides resource conservation, water supply, economic and public safety benefits that extend well beyond that area.

For More Information Contact:

Jeff Gross, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist
Salina, Kansas
785-823-4550
email: jeff.gross@ks.usda.gov



This fact sheet was developed for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service by the National Watershed Coalition.
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